

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-29 stand rejected.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as follows.

Applicants maintain that the amendments previously made to claim 1 provide additional clarity with respect to “what is meant by a mesh node in accordance with the specification.” Applicant also notes that the mesh network configuration shown in Fig. 3 and the corresponding discussion in the specification (page 15, line 22 to page 16, line 22) provide support for the amendments to the claims. The Office Action states that Applicants’ amendments did not show where in the cited passage the then-newly claimed “first netowrk” and “second network” found support. The Office Action further states that the passage relied upon states that a “mesh network configuration 300 [includes] ... routing structures 310, 320, 330, 340 andn 350” The Office Action then states that mesh network configuration 300 is regarded as one network, and that the first and second networks are not clearlky pointed out.

As noted in the Office Action, the cited portion of the Specification states:

“Referring to Fig. 3, a block diagram illustrates an architecture in accordance with an embodiment. As shown, Fig. 3 shows a mesh network configuration 300 including routing structures 310, 320, 330, 340 and 350. Each of the routing structures include either ring or

similar topologies of network nodes, such as node 360 and node 362. More specifically, each routing structure, as shown in structure 310 includes a working ring 390 and a protection ring 392. The working ring 390 transmits working channel data and the protection ring 392 transmits protect channel data such as the protection channel access data. Protection ring 392 further transmits working data where predetermined criteria are met. *For example, an APS switch could be one of the criteria used to determine whether to implement restoration of protect channel data. The routing structures are further connected through interfaces 380 through 385, which could be nodes or multiplexers or some other type of routing structure. For example, routing structures include wavelength routers, digital cross-connects, optical cross-connects, IP routers, and asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switches. Each routing structure contributes to forming a mesh network of routing structures.*

Fig. 3 further shows route 370 as a path for PCA between node 360 and node 362. More specifically, route 370 transmits SONET packets between node 360 and node 362 via the PCA network including ring 320, ring 330 and ring 340, routing interfaces 383 and 385.

During a network failure, if a SONET ring switch occurs, such as an APS switch, the protection channel traffic is dropped on those facilities by the SONET architecture. More particularly, a network failure includes occurrences such as a fiber cut, multiple equipment failures, “chopped” channel characteristics, degradation of service, noisy channel and the like resulting in a determination by the network that a failure occurred. A failure typically results in a loss of signal (LOS) message across the network and typically causes automatic switching to occur. A network failure includes at least one of a section level, a line level or a path level failure of equipment. However, as other failures related to quality of service (QOS) also affect

transmission lines and are generally related to bit error rates.” (Specification, p. 15, line 22, though p. 16, line 22; Emphasis supplied)

As the emphasized portions of the foregoing passages demonstrate, support exists for the aforementioned amendments. More specifically, the claimed first and second networks are clearly demonstrated. The first network is discussed, for example, as follows:

“Fig. 3 further shows route 370 as a path for PCA between node 360 and node 362. More specifically, route 370 transmits SONET packets between node 360 and node 362 via the PCA network including ring 320, ring 330 and ring 340, routing interfaces 383 and 385.” (Specification, p. 16, ll.9-12)

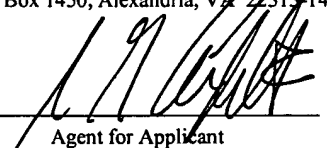
while the second network is discussed, for example, as follows:

“For example, an APS switch could be one of the criteria used to determine whether to implement restoration of protect channel data. The routing structures are further connected through interfaces 380 through 385, which could be nodes or multiplexers or some other type of routing structure. For example, routing structures include wavelength routers, digital cross-connects, optical cross-connects, IP routers, and asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switches. Each routing structure contributes to forming a mesh network of routing structures.” (Specification, p. 16, ll.9-12)

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing citations demonstrate support for the claim terms “first network” and “second network” and so meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph. In light of the foregoing arguments, Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the claimed invention meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph, as claimed in independent claims 1, 12, 21 and 29. Moreover, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 2-11, 13-20 and 22-28, which depend from independent claims 1, 12 and 21, are also allowable, for at least the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5084.

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Respectfully submitted,


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